Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Date of signing
102.	Tanzania	17.01.1975
103.	Tajikistan	15.02.1993
104.	Thailand	29.04.1997
105.	Trinidad & Tobago	13.03.1987
106.	Tunisia	24.06.1969
107.	Turkey	29.05.1951
108.	Turkmenistan	20.04.1992
109.	United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)	03.01.1975
110.	Uganda	24.11.1981
111.	Ukraine	27.03.1992
112.	Uzbekistan	17.08.1991
113.	Venezuela	13.09.1984
114.	Vietnam	18.12.1976
115.	Yemen	22.07.1999
116.	Zaire	04.07.1978
117.	Zambia	26.01.1975
118.	Zimbabwe	22.05.1981

Meeting of World Cultural Forum

2597. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has recently in collaboration with the Ministry signed an agreement with the World Culture Forum Alliance (WCFA) to host the 3rd global meet of the World Culture forum in January 2008, to strengthen the cultural ties with some 100 countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and specific action-plan drawn up for the proposed meet of the World Culture Forum;

(c) the highlights of the events organized during the earlier such meets held in Brazil and Jordan in 2004 and 2005 respectively; and

(d) the assessment of achievements of the World Culture Forum since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the action-plan are being drawn up in consultation with concerned agencies to give effect to the agreement.

(c) The highlights of the events organized during earlier meets held in Brazil and Jordan in 2004 and 2005 are as follows:

Forum Cultural Mundial, Sao Paulo, Brazil (30th June to 3rd July 2004)

A global convention in the form of an 8-days symposium about the most important issues, questions, themes, goals and objectives of culture and arts today.

A festival with an international artistic programme.

A cultural forum of ideas and opportunities.

2nd World Culture Forum, Dead Sea, Jordan (December 4th—7th, 2005)

At the 2nd World Culture Forum, the following key questions were addressed:

* Cultural property rights

* The dual character of cultural goods and services

* Distribution and dissemination channels for cultural production

* Cultural impact assessment

* Cultural role of corporate and independent media

* International processes addressing the situation of cultures

* Artists and cultural workers.

(d) The World Culture Forum Alliance is a non-governmental organization registered in New York and it has its secretariat in Vienna and Hong Kong. The WCFA aims at advocating a stronger sense for preservation of culture as well as the awareness and the identification of one's own culture. It intends to establish a culture database, network and promote cross-national, cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural dialogue and exchanges.

WCFA is an ongoing process. 6 research initiatives have been carried out in Asia-Pacific region.